

Quality of Life, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I had an unavoidable conflict on the afternoon of May 19, 2006, and was not able to vote. Had I been able, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes Nos. 175 and 176.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 5385, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 5385, the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections and conforming changes to the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON H.R. 5427, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. HOBSON, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-474) on the bill (H.R. 5427) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of inquiring of the majority leader the schedule for the week to come, and I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), my friend, the majority leader.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the House will convene on Monday at 12:30 for morning hour and at 2 p.m. for legislative business. We have items that will be considered under suspension of the rules. A final list of those bills will be in Members' offices by the end of the day. Any votes called on these will be taken after 6:30 on Monday evening.

On Tuesday and the balance of the week, the House will consider the Ag appropriations bill, which I anticipate will be scheduled on Tuesday; the Energy and Water appropriations bill, which I would anticipate to be Wednesday or Thursday; and the Homeland Security appropriations bill, which will be Wednesday or Thursday as well.

On Wednesday morning at 11 a.m. there will be a joint meeting of the

Congress to receive the Prime Minister of Israel, Ehud Olmert.

We also anticipate action next week on H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror and Hurricane Recovery, if it is finished.

Finally, I anticipate that we will likely consider energy legislation next week. Specifically, the issue of ANWR is likely to come to the floor.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that information, and I, again, would simply emphasize that the majority leader said, as he did last week and accurately so, our Members need to make sure that they are available for a Friday session; am I correct on that?

Mr. BOEHNER. That is correct. As we all know, next Friday is the beginning of the holiday weekend. We do have an awful lot of work to do, and Members should anticipate that we will be here until 2 p.m. next Friday.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. I was going to ask him about the days for the appropriation bills, but I believe the gentleman has already indicated which days you anticipate that: Tuesday, the Ag bill; Wednesday, the Energy and Water, or Wednesday and Thursday; and then Homeland Security on Thursday.

Would you anticipate that one of those bills might go over till Friday, or is there other legislation that might be on the calendar for Friday?

Mr. BOEHNER. I think the issue would center around the availability of the supplemental, if it is finished.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, if the supplemental has not been completed by the conference committee, would you still anticipate that we would be in on Friday? I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. It really depends on how quickly we get through the appropriations process. The House was in late on Wednesday night. The House was rather late last night. As the gentleman knows, I like to go to bed at 10 o'clock, and to the extent that we can finish our work during normal business hours would be my approach.

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And considering Friday is a getaway day for the holiday weekend, we are going to work together to try to see how quickly these bills move.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader, and I want to comment that the leader has been very inclined to try to work together to make his schedule as accommodating for Members as possible. And I want you to know I personally appreciate it, and I believe we appreciate that on this side of the aisle.

Mr. Leader, on energy bills, you mentioned briefly, but do you anticipate, in addition to the ANWR bill that you mentioned as a possibility, any legislation on the refinery siting that might also be here?

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield.

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BOEHNER. There was anticipation that we would have the refinery bill up next week, the bill that did not receive the required two-thirds when it was brought up under suspension, but there have been some conversations under way, bipartisan conversations under way on that bill, and we have decided to let those conversations continue to see if there is some way for both sides to resolve their differences, which would mean that the bill would be brought up under some kind of structured rule as opposed to bringing up the same bill under a closed rule.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. I am shuffling papers back and forth here, but, again, ANWR, can you anticipate what you might expect with respect to an ANWR bill?

Mr. BOEHNER. Just that we are very likely to have one next week.

Mr. HOYER. Next week?

Mr. BOEHNER. I wish I could be clearer in terms of what it would look like and how it would be considered; but as soon as those decisions are made, we will pass them on.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

Lastly, I want to ask about two conference committees, the supplemental appropriation conference and the pension conference, which we have discussed on a couple of occasions. Can you tell us what your expectations are with reference to those two situations?

Mr. BOEHNER. If the gentleman will yield.

Mr. HOYER. I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. I will do the easy one first.

With the pension conference, there are conversations going on. There has been a lot of shuttle diplomacy, if you will, between offices, both Democrat and Republican, trying to bring this bill together. I do believe that we are making progress. We are relatively close. But considering the complexity of this issue and the necessity that it be correct, I am hopeful we will have an agreement next week, but I have got my doubts whether it can be put together in time to be brought to the floor. But my overall point is that I think we are getting close.

On the supplemental, I have made it very clear that the House will not consider a conference report on the supplemental spending bill that spends any more money than what the President called for for Katrina and the war in Iraq. And, secondly, I have made it clear that we ought to remember that the word "emergency" ought to be put back into the emergency spending bill.

And so I think that the appropriators on both sides of the Capitol have their marching orders. I know they have had conversations. It is hard for me to gauge at this point the chances of whether this bill will be up next week. I hope that it is, but I think they have a big job ahead of them.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for the information.